

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 /017 W

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O P 181241Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4686

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T NOUAKCHOTT 2372

ABIDJAN FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: XGDS (2)

TAGS: ACOM ASEC MR

SUBJECT: SECURITY VIOLATION: FAILURE TO CLOSE VAULT DOOR

1. FOLLOWING REPORT IS BEING SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 11, SECTION 11004 OF COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY PUBLICATION S/KAG-1B. AS RESULT OF SERIES OF INCORRECT ASSUMPTIONS BY AMERICAN PERSONNEL DEPARTING CHANCERY EVENING OF NOVEMBER 17, VAULT DOOR TO COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS SECTION WAS LEFT OPEN FROM APPROXIMATELY 1815 NOVEMBER 17 TO 0755 NOVEMBER 18. IT HAS BEEN POSITIVELY ASCERTAINED THAT VAULT DOOR WAS NOT CLOSED BY DEPARTING AMERICAN PERSONNEL. (DETAILS ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF FAILURE TO CLOSE VAULT DOOR ARE BEING SENT SEPARATELY.)

2. WE BELIEVE THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE OF CLASSIFIED AND COMSEC MATERIAL FOR FOLLOWING REASONS. LAST PERSON TO LEAVE CHANCERY CLOSED CIPHER LOCK STEEL DOOR IN CHANCERY CORRIDOR WHICH SEPARATES UNCLASSIFIED AREA FROM SECURE AREA. SAME PERSON ALSO LOCKED EMBASSY FRONT DOOR. IN ADDITION, WOODEN CIPHER LOCK DOOR, WHICH IS BEHIND VAULT DOOR AND SERVES AS FINAL CONTROL BARRIER TO C&R ROOM WAS SHUT BY LAST PERSON LEAVING ROOM. CHECK OF C&R ROOM MORNING OF NOVEMBER 18 REVEALED NOTHING OUT OF PLACE OR ANY INDICATION THAT CLASSIFIED OR CRYPTO MATERIAL HAD BEEN TAMPERED WITH. CHECK OF EXTERIOR OF

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CHANCERY MORNING OF NOVEMBER 18 INDICATED THERE

HAD BEEN NO VISIBLE ATTEMPT AT SURREPTITIOUS ENTRY DURING NIGHT. ALL CHANCERY WINDOWS IN SECURE SECTION OF EMBASSY ARE STEEL GRILLED AND ALL PANES OF GLASS THROUGH OUT CHANCERY ARE INTACT. ALL THREE EXTERIOR DOORS TO CHANCERY (STEEL DOOR TO AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE HAS THREE-WAY COMBINATION LOCK, FRONT DOOR OF CHANCERY HAS YALE LOCK, AND STEEL DOOR TO GOS OFFICE WAS KEY LOCKED AND DOUBLE LATCHED FROM INSIDE) WERE SECURE DURING NIGHT. CHANCERY IS LOCATED INSIDE EMBASSY COMPOUND. DCM (WHO LIVES IMMEDIATELY ACROSS FROM CHANCERY) WAS ON COMPOUND THROUGHOUT TIME VAULT DOOR WAS OPEN. CRO WAS ON COMPOUND FOR ALL BUT ONE HOUR OF THIS TIME. IN ADDITION, AMBASSADOR WAS ON COMPOUND FROM 2000 UNTIL OPEN DOOR WAS DISCOVERED NEXT MORNING. NO ONE WAS AWARE OF ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITY DURING THE NIGHT.

3. ALTHOUGH WE CAN NOT BE 100 PERCENT CERTAIN THERE WAS NO COMPROMISE, WE BELIEVE CHANCES OF COMPROMISE ARE VITALLY NIL AND DO NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO CHANGE COMSEC MATERIAL. WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF THIS KIND OF SITUATION.

4. PLEASE ADVISE. HANDYSIDE

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NNN

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